To: Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
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I wish to register my opposition to the proposed Microsoft settlement. I object to the proposal for the following reasons:

1) Fundamentally, the settlement would treat the symptoms of the problem, rather than the problem itself. The remedies spelled out in the proposal are overly specific, to the point that microsoft can still find other means not mentioned to continue abusing its monopoly.

2) For example, one omission for the settlement proposal is competing windows-compatible operating systems, such as WINE on Linux. Microsoft intentionally erects a large Barrier to Entry by using restrictive license terms and intentional incompatibilities, which the settlement would not prohibit.

3) As another example, Microsoft currently uses restrictive licensing terms to keep Open Source applications from running on Windows, and they similarly restrict Windows applications from running on other operating systems. The proposed final judgement would prohibit neither of these licensing terms.

4) Beyond the licensing terms, Microsoft uses continuous intentional incompatibilities from one release to the next to prevent applications from running on competing operating systems. Once again, this behavior would not be restricted.

5) Finally, the proposal as currently written lacks an effective enforcement mechanism. There is no real penalty for disobeying its terms.

In conclusion, i would like to assert that the proposed settlement is really not settlement at all. If we allow it, we are conceeding to Microsoft, and they win the case. Their abuse of monopoly powers would go on unabated.

As an alternative, I would propose splitting the company up, but not into an operating systems and applications division. Rather, I would suggest splitting it up into two competing Microsofts, each of which inherits all the code of the parent company. They would be forced to develop their

code independantly, and any standards would have to be publically
announced such that other competitors might write compliant code as well.
And best of all, Microsoft would finally have some equal competition.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

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Sincerely,
Ross A Knepper

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